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Appln. No.: 10/549,468
Amendment Dated June 30, 2008
Reply to Final Office Action of March 28, 2008

TJA-119US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No: 10/549,468
Applicant: Joan Llagostera Forns
Filed: September 14, 2005
Title: ARTICULATED ARM FOR AWNINGS
TC/A.U.: 3634
Examiner: David M. Purol
Confirmation No.: 8320
Docket No.: TJA-119US

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Expedited Procedure

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Final Office Action dated April 28, 2008, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

- Amendments to the Specification** begin on page _____ of this paper.
- Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.
- Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page _____ of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet(s).
- Amendments to the Abstract** are on page _____ of this paper. A clean version of the Abstract is on page _____ of this paper.
- Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.

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Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) An articulated arm for an awning for use with a fixed support member and a load bar, the articulated arm comprising:

an arm having a first end and a second end, the first end of the arm including a securing portion adapted for coupling to the fixed support member, the second end of the arm including a surrounding wall portion adapted for articulation;

a forearm having a first end and a second end, the first end of the forearm including a core portion adapted for articulation and coupled to the second end of the arm, the core portion having an orifice extending at least partially through the core portion in a direction transverse to a longitudinal direction of the forearm, the second end of the forearm including a portion adapted for articulation and coupling to the load bar, and the surrounding wall portion of the arm at least partially disposed around the core portion;

an elastic element disposed within the arm and secured to a predetermined location on the arm;

a flexible pulling element disposed within the arm, the flexible pulling element having a first end coupled to the elastic element and a second end coupled to the core portion of the forearm; and

bearing means disposed between the core and the surrounding wall, and coaxial with the orifice to guide rotation of the surrounding wall relative to the core portion and to support the forearm on the arm,

wherein the surrounding wall portion and the core portion define an annular passage, and the second end of the arm includes an opening between the annular passage and a hollow interior portion of the arm for the passage of the flexible pulling element,

said flexible pulling element terminates at the second end in a thickened portion secured to a receiver formed on the core portion,

said bearings means include at least one pair of first conical surfaces positioned one of i) adjacent the end or ii) disposed on the end of the core portion, and

at least one pair of second conical surfaces are disposed on the first conical surfaces and adapted to slide over the first conical surfaces, the second conical surfaces positioned one of adjacent or immediately adjacent an opening to the interior cavity.

5. (Previously Presented) An arm, in accordance with claim 4, wherein at least one of the first or second conical surfaces of each pair comprises a material with a low coefficient of friction in order to facilitate a sliding movement of the first conical surfaces relative to the second conical surfaces.

6. (Previously Presented) An arm, in accordance with claim 5, wherein at least one of the first and/or second conical surfaces are part of respective ring-shaped parts disposed at least one of inside the core portion or on the surrounding wall portion.

7. (Previously Presented) An arm, in accordance with claim 6, wherein said ring-shaped parts are made from synthetic plastic.

8. (Previously Presented) An arm, in accordance with claim 4, wherein at least one of the first conical surfaces and second conical surfaces is located respectively adjacent the surrounding wall portion and/or the core portion, and at least one of the first and/or second conical surfaces comprises either an antifriction treatment or a material having a low coefficient of friction.

9. (Previously Presented) An arm, in accordance with claim 4, wherein the first end of the forearm comprises a fork defined by first and second lateral support portions that face each other, between which the core portion is disposed and secured by a securing pin inserted axially through at least one hole in at least one of said first and second lateral supports, the surrounding wall portion disposed around the core portion, and the second conical surfaces in contact with the two first conical surfaces and with the surrounding wall portion.

10. (Previously Presented) An arm, in accordance with claim 9, further comprising:

at least one end part having a central hole formed there through; and

a pin,

wherein the first lateral support includes a first hole and one end of the core portion adjacent the first lateral support includes one of the first conical surfaces, and the second lateral support includes a second hole with a slightly conical interior surface on which is seated a first surface of the end part, a second surface of the end part comprising the other of the first conical surfaces, said central hole of said end part aligned with the orifice in the core, which is aligned with said first hole of the first lateral support, and the pin is inserted and retained in a housing defined by the central hole of the end part, the orifice in the core portion and the first hole in the first lateral support.

11. (Previously Presented) An arm, in accordance with claim 10, further comprising means for retaining said pin inside said housing against any movement in an axial direction.

12. (Previously Presented) An arm, in accordance with claim 11, wherein the first hole in the first lateral support and the central hole of the end part have slightly conical surfaces and said pin is tubular with end portions that are widened against said slightly conical interior surfaces of the first hole and the central hole respectively.

13. (Previously Presented) An arm, in accordance with claim 11, further comprising plugs for the first and second holes in the first and second lateral supports, with said plugs having securing configurations adapted for press fit into the hollow pin.

14. (Previously Presented) An arm, in accordance with claim 4, further comprising an end part,

wherein the first end of the forearm comprises a lateral support that projects from the core portion, and the end part is coupled to a free end of the core portion by means of at least one securing element, where one of said first conical surfaces are disposed at the base of the core portion and another of said first conical surfaces is included into said end part, the second conical surfaces disposed between the surrounding wall and the two first conical surfaces.

15. (Previously Presented) An arm, in accordance with claim 4, further comprising at least one pair of stops located on an interior surface of the surrounding wall portion or on said

exterior surface of the core portion, in positions adapted to interfere during rotation of the forearm with respect to the arm, with a protuberance on the exterior surface of the core portion or said interior surface of the surrounding wall portion in order to limit an angle of rotation of the forearm with respect to the arm.

16. (Previously Presented) An arm, in accordance with claim 12, further comprising plugs for the first and second holes in the first and second lateral supports, with said plugs having securing configurations adapted for press fit into the hollow pin.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) An arm, in accordance with claim 4, wherein said flexible pulling element is a belt that terminates at the second end in a thickened portion secured to a receiver formed on the core.

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 2-17 are pending. Claims 2, 3 and 17 stand rejected and are hereby cancelled without prejudice. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 4-16 are allowed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Office Action sets forth at page 2, paragraph 1, "Claims 2, 3, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ES Patent No. 1,052,733 in view of ES Patent No. 1,051,839." Although applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's broad interpretation of the cited art and application to the claims, Applicant hereby cancels claims 2, 3, and 17 to expedite prosecution.

All remaining claims are allowed.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, applicant submits that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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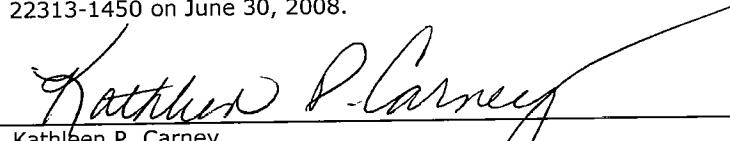
JLE/kpc

Dated: June 30, 2008

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. **18-0350** for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 30, 2008.


Kathleen P. Carney